

Refugee List 4

1. draft

engage somebody to enter the army

*They had been **drafted** into the police, and they weren't allowed to leave.*

2. hijab

a headscarf worn by Muslim women

*Fatima had put on a black long-sleeved dress and a pink flowery **hijab** that covered her head and shoulders.*

3. perversion

the action of corrupting something

*Daesh thought they were fighting the final war of the apocalypse, and anyone who didn't agree with their twisted **perversion** of Islam were infidels...*

4. infidel

a person who does not acknowledge your god

*Daesh thought they were fighting the final war of the apocalypse, and anyone who didn't agree with their twisted perversion of Islam were **infidels**...*

5. radical

markedly new or introducing extreme change

*Mahmoud and his family planned to stay as far away from Daesh as possible, but the **radical** fighters were coming farther and farther into Syria every day.*

6. streak

move quickly in a straight line

Mahmoud looked out the dusty car window as a jet fighter **streaked** by high above them, headed for Aleppo.

7. [lull](#)

a pause during which things are calm

Mahmoud's father waited for another **lull** in the shooting, and then they all hurried away from the car, leaving everything else they owned behind.

8. [fraught](#)

filled with or attended with

What would once have been a happy occasion in the Landau home was now **fraught** with anxiety, thanks to his father's paranoia.

9. [yarmulke](#)

a skullcap worn by religious Jews, especially at prayer

There weren't the required ten men for the service—there were a hundred men, probably more, all wearing **yarmulkes** on their heads and white-and-black tallisim—prayer shawls—around their shoulders.

10. [procession](#)

the action of a group moving ahead in regular formation

It all came flooding back to him now—swaying and humming along with the prayers, craning his neck to see the Torah when it was taken out of the ark and hoping to get a chance to touch it and then kiss his fingers as the scroll came around in a **procession**.

11. [diminutive](#)

very small

Gustav Schroeder, the ship's **diminutive** captain, was there to greet them at the door.

12. [exception](#)

an instance that does not conform to a rule

*Josef had seen paintings of the Nazi leader all over the ship, and the first-class social hall was no **exception**.*

13. prompt

give an incentive for action

*That **prompted** someone to break out food and drinks, even though it was late.*

14. throng

a large gathering of people

*Together the shambling **throng** of refugees was ignored by the American drones and the rebel rocket launchers and the Syrian army tanks and the Russian jets.*

15. squalid

foul and run-down and repulsive

*If he were a Turkish border guard, he wouldn't have let in any of these dirty, **squalid** people, himself included.*

16. punctuate

interrupt periodically

*After Aleppo—the near-constant gunfire and explosions, **punctuated** by the oppressive quiet of an entire city trying their hardest not to draw attention to themselves—this place felt alive, even if it was dusty and cramped.*